

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

II. Listing of Claims:

1. – 18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently amended) A liquid gel concentrate composition according to claim ~~18~~ 23, wherein the pH adjusting compound comprises sodium hydroxide.

20. – 22. (Cancelled)

23. (Previously Presented) A liquid gel concentrate composition, comprising:

at least one unhydrated hydratable polymer dispersed in an aqueous sodium formate solution, wherein sodium formate together with an inhibitor comprising a boron compound and a pH adjusting compound in the aqueous formate solution, inhibits hydration of the at least one unhydrated hydratable polymer, wherein the at least one unhydrated hydratable polymer yields viscosity upon hydration, the unhydrated hydratable polymer comprising a polysaccharide selected from the group consisting of guar gum, depolymerized hydroxypropyl guar, carboxymethyl guar and carboxymethylhydroxypropyl guar, and being present in an amount of from about 100 to about 6000 lbs/1000 gals. of the aqueous sodium formate solution; and

a suspending agent comprises a succinoglucan biopolymer for suspending the at least one unhydrated hydratable polymer in the liquid gel concentrate.